



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Whispering Springs Fuel Break		
PROJECT LOCATION	Sections 29 & 30, Township 10 South, Range 23 East, MDB&M; Auberry, California 7.5 minute quadrangle	COUNTY	Fresno
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Whispering Springs fuel break is a 90 acre fuels reduction project located in the Tollhouse/Auberry area of Eastern Fresno County. Brush and small diameter trees will be treated within 100 feet of Whispering Springs Road/Lane to reduce the potential for crown fire spread and to eliminate existing fuel ladders. A minimum of 50% of the understory and overstory vegetation will be removed primarily through mastication. Areas inaccessible by equipment will be treated by hand crews utilizing chainsaws. Material not masticated will be piled and burned. Trees over 8 inches diameter are not targeted for treatment but may be removed where a threat to safety or infrastructure exists. Residual vegetation will be left individually or in clumps spaced so as not to contribute to wildfire spread and generally no less than 20 feet apart.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ **Categorical Exemption** Type/Section: Class 4 15304 Minor Alteration to Land
- ☐ **Statutory Exemption** (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project is exempt under CEQA Categorical Exemption 15304 Minor Alterations to Land.

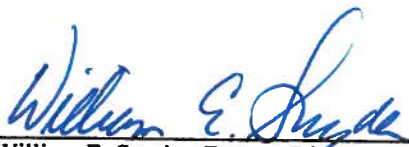
Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE's Fresno Kings Unit Headquarters (Attention: Environmental Coordinator) in Sanger, CA. This project as proposed shall not have a significant impact on the environment.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

RECEIVED

MAR 27 2013

STATE CLEARING HOUSE


William E. Snyder, Deputy Director
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

3/27/13
Date